

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 325.0235PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/US04/32788	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 05 October 2004 (05.10.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): F25J 3/02, 3/00 and US Cl.: 62/657, 628, 625, 621			
Applicant FLUOR CORPORATION			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of ___ sheets, as follows:
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) ___ , containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in electronic form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 03 March 2005 (03.03.2005)	Date of completion of this report 02 February 2006 (02.02.2006)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	<p>Authorized officer  William C. Doerrler Telephone No. (571) 272-3750 </p>

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/32788

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on:

- the international application in the language in which it was filed.
- a translation of the international application into English, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4(a))
 - international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2(a) and/or 55.3(a))

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- the international application as originally filed/furnished

- the description:

pages 1-15 as originally filed/furnishedpages* NONE received by this Authority on _____pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

- the claims:

pages 16-18 as originally filed/furnishedpages* NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

- the drawings:

pages 1-3 as originally filed/furnishedpages* NONE received by this Authority on _____pages* NONE received by this Authority on _____

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

 the description, pages None the claims, Nos. None the drawings, sheets/figs None the sequence listing (*specify*): None any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): None

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

 the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheets/figs _____ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/US04/32788**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-20</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and Explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a fluidly connected absorber and distillation column with the ratio of inputs to the absorber being manipulated to control the output at the bottom of the distillation column. The prior art shows controlling the flow into a column to control the flow out of the column, but not controlling the input to an absorber to control the bottom output of an associated distillation column. The prior art also shows fluidly connected absorbers and distillation columns. However, there is no teaching to combine the fluidly connected absorber/distillation columns with the controlled feed systems to control the output at a downstream column.

Claims 1-20 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus possess industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.